

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration with respect to the Tipps Declaration, and the Examiner's comments and suggestions in that regard. After further review, however, Applicants have decided to address the outstanding rejections by further amending the claims, without further reliance on the Tipps Declaration at this time.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first portion of the shaft has three lobes, so that both the threads and the shaft in the first portion have three lobes. As seen in the declaration of Lon DeHaitre, a "three lobe thread" would be understood by those of ordinary skill in the fastener art to define a three lobe thread form running along the threaded portion of the shaft, which becomes a three lobe shaft as well.

Claims 1, 3, and 7 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Craven, Chen, and Linsey. The remaining dependent claims stand rejected on the basis of various combinations of references. In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants will only respond to the rejection of independent claim 1.

The various features of the cited references have been discussed previously, and are repeated by reference. Moreover, none of the cited references discloses or suggests the full three lobe thread design now recited in claim 1, by reciting that both the shaft and the threads have three radial lobes.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner is using hindsight to reconstruct the present invention by picking and choosing various elements from several references.

Since the cited references do not disclose the full three lobe design now recited in claim 1, the addition of another reference would be further evidence that the Examiner is using hindsight, which of course is improper. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the rejections of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should call Applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Burns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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